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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

July 21, 1967

TO: S/S - Mr. Read

13635

Subject: Status Report on
USS Liberty

Attached is the status report prepared by L/C on the USS Liberty case. We have sent copies to M, NEA and H. We will be glad to make any further distribution that you wish.

Jeanne W. Davis

Attachment.

cc: S/S-S - Mr. Walker
M - Mr. Grey
NEA - Mr. Richaud
H - Mr. Davies

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY AGWood DATE Oct 26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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SUBJECT: Preparations for presentation of the U.S.S. Liberty claims against Israel

1. The United States will present to the Government of Israel the following claims arising out of the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty by Israeli naval and air units on June 8, 1967:

a. Death claims. Claims of the dependents of deceased members of the crew for loss of support, loss of services, and shock and grief.

b. Personal injury claims. Claims of injured crew members for loss of future earning capacity and pain and suffering.

c. Personal property. The Navy has a statutory program for compensating crew members or their estates for personal property damaged or destroyed in the attack. The United States Government will claim for all payments made under that program.

d. Medical expenses. A claim of the United States Government for medical expenses incurred in treating crew members.

e. Property damage. The claim of the United States Government for repairs to the U.S.S. Liberty.

f. Loss of services. The claim of the United States Government for loss of services of the injured crew members.

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2. Claims under a. and b. above will require considerable information from the dependents and the injured crew members respectively. Normally this is obtained by letter, but we are following a new procedure this time. In the case of dependents, a lawyer from the nearest Navy post will secure the information; in the case of the injured crew members, a lawyer from the JAG office of the installation where the hospital is located will obtain the information. This new procedure is quicker, and will ensure that the dependents have the benefit of legal counsel in preparing information relevant to their claim.

3. We have received inquiries on behalf of constitutents from: Senators Stephen M. Young and Frank J. Lausche; Congressmen George A. Goodling, Garner E. Shriver, John M. Ashbrook and Thomas N. Downing. The lawyers for two estates have also written us.

4. A complete transcript of the Navy Court of Inquiry is in the possession of Captain M. I. Hadden, Op 61 B, OPNAV, Room 4E572, Pentagon, phone 11-52609. The transcript is classified TOP SECRET and Captain Hadden does not relinquish possession of it. He has been cooperative, however, in allowing us to have access to it, and in helping us find relevant testimony in it, to the extent this was necessary. Since the Government of Israel has expressed its willingness to make payments, our primary concern at this time is with the amount of compensation, which involves information largely extrinsic to the Court of Inquiry. If the Government of Israel were later to deny liability, however, we would need full access to the transcript.

July 19, 1967.

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